[28th January 1929

Industries

Development of the coconut fibre industry.

*1043 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) what steps Government have taken (i) for encouraging scientific retting of coconut husk fibre, (ii) for making coir or yarn out of the fibre, and (iii) for manufacturing ropes and mats out of the coir;

(b) whether training in these industries has been introduced in any of the Government or aided Industrial schools or Trades schools; and

(c) whether the Industrial Department has made a survey of the possibilities of the industry mentioned above as a cottage industry?

A.—(a) (i) Proposals for the conduct of certain experiments in regard to speedier methods of retting of coconut husks are under the consideration of Government.

(ii) & (iii) Improved spinning wheels, rope manufacturing appliances and looms for manufacturing mattings and brush mats are exhibited at the Textile Institute and can be made available to the public.

(b) Yes. The Madras Textile Institute provides instruction in the weaving of coir mats and matting.

(c) This will be considered in the light of the information collected by the Special officer for the survey of cottage industries on the conclusion of the experiments referred to in answer (a) (i).

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I know by whom the proposals were made and when?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"The proposals were made by the Director of Industries very recently."

Investigation into the prospects of the tile industry in the West Coast.

*1044 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct any inquiry into the position and prospects of the tile industry in the West Coast and assist it to recover its falling markets; and

(b) whether the Government have passed any order regarding the proposal to employ a special officer to investigate the possibilities of developing the ceramic industry in connexion with the depressed condition of the tile industry?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have had under consideration in connexion with the Budget of 1929–30 a scheme for the survey of the ceramic industry in the Presidency which included within its scope an enquiry into the specific case of developing the tile industry on the West Coast but had to postpone it for the present in view of the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know what the recommendations of the Finance Committee are in this matter?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"They have placed the scheme under class IV. That is to say, no provision has been made for it."